Exploration Licenses areas, award on one exploration block to ONGC under NELP-III in the State and putting on offer for bidding under NELP-IV of one more block AA-ONN-2002/4.

Kandla-Loni LPG Gas Pipeline

973. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the Kandla-Lone LPG gas pipeline project which is passing through Rajasthan among other States;

(b) the extent to which it will help in removing the waiting list for the registration of LPG gas connections and wipe out the backlog in the supply of LPG gas cylinders to the customers of Rajasthan;

(c) whether it will also give an opportunity for the supply of mini cylinders to the backward areas of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Jamnagar Loni LPG pipeline has been commissioned and is under operation. Kandla -Samakhiali line has been constructed connecting it to the Jarnnagar-Loni pipeline. Pipeline transmission of LPG has operational and cost advantages as compared to other mdoes of transport. To this extent, the pipeline would facilitate the quick spread LPG connections in Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) The channel for marketing of 5 Kg cylinders at present is through the existing network of LPG distributorship. The LPG gas pipeline project from Kandla to Loni has no direct bearing in the supply of mini cylinders in the State of Rajasthan. There is no backlog in supply of LPG cylinders in State of Rajasthan and no waiting list for LPG connections. As on 1.4.2003 there was approximately 4500 customers of 5 Kg cylinders in Rajasthan.

Agreement for import of crude oil

†974. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the names of countries from where crude oil is being imported;

(b) whether any agreement for the import of crude oil has been signed recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) During the year 2003-04, so far, the Public Sector Oil Companies have entered into term contracts with the oil companies in the following countries for import of crude oil:

Country	Quantity (in million metric tonnes)
Saudi Arabia	11.20
Kuwait	8.00
UAE	4.70
Malaysia	2.50
Brunei	0.25
Libya	0.81
Iran	5.00

In addition to oil imports through term contracts, crude oil is also purchased through spot tenders.

Political Risk Insurance cover for Sudan Project

975. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has imprudently invested US$ 670 million in a Sudanese venture without assessing political risks;

(b) whether Sudan is high on the hit list of US, post-Iraq; and

(c) whether the ONGC Videsh Ltd. has obtained a political risk insurance cover to safeguard its investments/stake in Sudan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has purchased 25% stake in the Greater